Violation of Mid-day Meal Scheme

394. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether violations of Mid-day Meal Scheme for primary school children by certain States have been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that children get some cooked food invariably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) As per the guidelines of the Mid-day Meal Scheme, with the support of the Central Government *i.e.* free of cost foodgrains and admissible transportation charges, the local bodies have the flexibilities to organise provision of cooked/pre-cooked food. Recently, a decision has been taken by the Government to contruct kitchen sheds in the schools under Rural Development Programmes. States of Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa (8 KBK districts and ITDA blocks), Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh (Tribal blocks), Karnataka (7 educationally backward districts and by 9 NGOs), UTs of A&N Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Pondicherry are providing cooked meals. In Delhi ready-to-eat food are being distributed. Other States/UTs have not yet started a meal programme.

(c) The Government has been constantly urging the States/UTs, currently not providing cooked meals to implement a cooked meal programme.

Expenditure on Mid-day Meal Scheme

395. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools providing mid-day meals to students in different States;

(b) the kind of meals that are provided in different regions;